

PATENT  
0425-0881P

## IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: OHTAWA, Yasuki et al. Conf.:  
Appl. No.: NEW Group:  
Filed: March 8, 2002 Examiner:  
For: SOFTENER COMPOSITION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

March 8, 2002

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

5. The softener composition according to claim 1, wherein said surfactant that is a compound represented by the formula (IV) has an HLB of 9 to 17.

6. The softener composition according to claim 1, wherein the blending ratio of the component (A) to the component (B) or the

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component (A') to the component (B') is  $(A)/(B)$  or  $(A')/(B')$  by weight of 50/1 to 1/2.

7. The softener composition according to claim 1, wherein the blending ratio of the component (A) or (A') to the composition is 3 to 50 weight %.

8. A method of preparing the softener composition described in claim 1, comprising, first, preparing a composition having the total amount of the component (A) and the component (B) or the component (A') and the component (B') of not less than 70 weight % and mixing it with water.

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## REMARKS

The claims have been amended to remove the improper multiple dependencies in order to place the application into better form prior to examination.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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JWB/rmv  
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Attachments

(Rev. 12/19/01)

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIn the Claims:

The claims have been amended as follows:

5. The softener composition according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1, 3 and 4], wherein said surfactant that is a compound represented by the formula (IV) has an HLB of 9 to 17.

6. The softener composition according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 5], wherein the blending ratio of the component (A) to the component (B) or the component (A') to the component (B') is (A)/(B) or (A')/(B') by weight of 50/1 to 1/2.

7. The softener composition according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 6], wherein the blending ratio of the component (A) or (A') to the composition is 3 to 50 weight %.

8. A method of preparing the softener composition described in claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 7], comprising, first, preparing a composition having the total amount of the component (A) and the component (B) or the component (A') and the component (B') of not less than 70 weight % and mixing it with water.